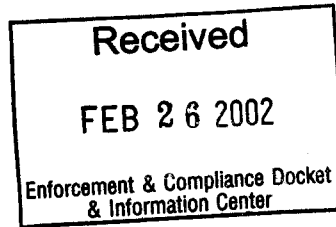


EC-2000-007  
IV-D-056



Equiva Services LLC  
12700 Northborough Drive  
Houston, Texas 77067  
February 26, 2002

United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Enforcement and Compliance Docket and Information Center (Mail Cpde 2201A)  
Attn: Docket Number EC-2000-007  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20460

SUBJECT: Establishment of Electronic Reporting:                      Electronic Records; Proposed Rule;  
Docket Number EC 2000-007

Dear Sir or Madam,

These comments are submitted on the 66 FR 46161, August 31, 2001 proposed rule entitled "Establishment of Electronic Reporting: Electronic Records; Proposed Rule". This letter presents the comments of Equiva Services LLC (Equiva) on the proposed rule. The comments are submitted on behalf of Equilon Enterprises LLC (Equilon), Motiva Enterprises, LLC (Motiva) and Shell Deer Park Refining Venture (Deer Park). Equilon was formed in 1998 as a joint venture company co-owned by Shell Oil Company and Texaco, Inc., and includes the refining and marketing operations of the parent companies in the western United States. Motiva was also formed in 1998 as a joint venture company co-owned by Shell Oil Company, Texaco Inc. and Saudi Refining Company, and includes the refining and marketing operations of the parent companies in the eastern U.S. Deer Park is a refinery co-owned by Shell Oil Company and PEMEX. Equiva is a service company representing the operating companies described above.

As an API member company, we participated in the development of API comments and fully support the content of those comments. We also support electronic reporting and electronic recordkeeping. However, we cannot support this proposal as it appears to be ill conceived and hastily written.

We believe that the proposed rule is unnecessarily prescriptive and will result in unwarranted and unjustified expenses to our company and to all EPA regulated facilities in industries across the United States. While EPA touts the rule as voluntary, we can find nothing voluntary about it; to the contrary, the language in the proposal clearly identifies this as a proposed 'rule'....not as proposed 'guidance'. As written, the rule would apply to ALL environmental data generated, stored, sent or received by a computer. Our company has nine refineries, over a 100 petroleum distribution terminals, three lubricant plants, and several thousand miles of pipeline. To keep environmental data for all these facilities, we also have several thousand computers. We believe that EPA has vastly underestimated the cost of the rule; our estimates show that the rule will impact each and every computer in our company and result in huge expenditures to upgrade our software in order to comply with the proposed rule. Worse, the proposed rule would negate the legitimacy of all environmental records which we now keep and force us to store all our data on paper. This is clearly impractical and infeasible.

Due to the pervasive and significant problems with the proposed electronic reporting and recordkeeping rule, we urge EPA to withdraw it. We appreciate your attention to and consideration of these comments. Please call me at 281/874-4748 or send electronic mail to [jomartin@equiva.com](mailto:jomartin@equiva.com) if you have questions or would like to discuss these comments further.

Yours truly,

Joncile Martin  
Sr. Staff Environmental Professional